

- ① Please double space. ② Please count lines. ③ Why is this capitalized? ④ wow! Bonanza. ⑤ ~~Start~~ Starts like an old EAGLE line.

37  
Lines

Joe Bustillos  
Daily Titan  
COMM338

Peter Case, "The Man with the <sup>③</sup>BLUE Postmodern Fragmented Neo-traditional <sup>③</sup>GUITAR" (Geffen, 1989). \$\$\$ (on a scale of 1 to 4)

Some folk artists have been known to bludgeon their listeners to death with their wordy, didactic lyrics. Peter Case has obviously decided to dispense with this tendency right away with his album's title.

"Blue Guitar," ~~however~~, is neither wordy nor didactic. Well, it can be a little wordy by pop music standards but that is a price worth paying to enjoy the characters Case has populated this album with.

In the tradition of good folk music, Case has uncovered a host of down-on-their-luck drifters and fugitives to tell their stories. From Nicole, who works at the Garden of Earthly Delights ("Entella Hotel") to Tom, a former sailor who landed in an Oakland jail and then a prison hospital ("Poor Old Tom"), Case beautifully mates his music and stories.

④ In "Put Down the Gun," Case features guitar picking reminiscent of the TV show "Bonanza" and harks back to the era of the railroad and the outlaw. In "Two Angels" the tempo slows down considerably as the unnamed lovers ask, "how can we be the same two people who were so much in love?"

⑤ However, not all of these stories are downers. In "Rise and Shine" Case sings: "Sometimes you gotta wonder/sometimes you gotta choose/some mornings you gotta wake and win/you can't always lose." Though thoroughly tongue-in-cheek, he does entertain hope when it most seems to be gone.

In "Hidden Love," Case answers the question he rises in "Two Angels" and gives his reason for continuing with hope, "We kept the secret hidden deep inside/hidden love, and been in love/and all the tears we've cried/though I've loved you a long time/now it can't be denied/someone sees the dreams we hide."

"Blue Guitar" is the second solo album for Case, the former leader of the Plimsouls. Assisting Case with what he calls, "post-atomic age folk music" is Steve Soles, a former Bob Dylan session man, Dave Hidalgo of Los Lobos fame and T-Bone Burnett (does anyone do folk album in LA with T-Bone Burnett's presence?).

X X X

do you mean "without,"  
rather than "with?" they  
don't mean the same thing.